

Acre-Foot:	A volume of water that covers one acre to a depth of one foot, or 43, 560 cubic feet (1233.5 cubic meters)
Alluvial:	Relating to mud and/or sand deposited by flowing water. Alluvial deposits may occur after a heavy rainstorm.
Appropriative:	Water rights to or ownership of a water supply, which is acquired for the beneficial use of water by following a specific legal procedure.
Aquifer:	A natural underground layer of porous, water-bearing materials (sand, gravel) usually capable of yielding a large amount or supply of water.
Backflow:	A reverse flow condition, created by a difference in water pressures, which causes water to flow back into the distribution pipes of a potable water supply from any source or sources other than an intended source.
Chlorination:	The application of chlorine to water, generally for the purpose of disinfections, but frequently for accomplishing other biological or chemical results (aiding coagulation and controlling tastes and odors).
Clearwell:	A reservoir for the storage of filtered water of sufficient capacity to prevent the need to vary the filtration rate with variations in demand. Also used to provide chlorine contact time for disinfection.
Coagulants:	Chemicals that cause very fine particles to clump together into larger particles. This makes it easier to separate the solids from the water by settling, skimming, draining or filtering.
Disinfectant:	Any oxidant, including but not limited to chlorine, chlorine dioxide, chloramines, and ozone, that is added to water in any part of the treatment or distribution process and is intended to kill or inactivate pathogenic microorganisms.
Effluent:	Water or some other liquid-raw, partially or completely treated-flowing from a reservoir, basin, treatment process or treatment plant.
Filtration:	A process for removing particulate matter from water by passage through porous media.
Flocculation:	The gathering together of fine particles in water by gentle mixing after the addition of coagulant chemicals to form larger particles.
Infiltration Gallery:	A subsurface groundwater collection system, typically shallow in depth, constructed with open-jointed or perforated pipes that discharge collected water into a water-tight chamber. From this chamber the water is pumped to treatment facilities and into the distribution system. Infiltration galleries are usually located close to streams or ponds and may be under the direct influence of surface water.
National Pollutant Discharge:	Elimination System permit is the regulatory agency document issued by either a federal or state agency which is designed to control all discharges into navigable water from all point sources of pollution, including industries, municipal treatment plants, large agricultural feed lots and return irrigation flows.
Overdraft:	The pumping of water from a groundwater basin or aquifer in excess of the supply flowing into the basin. This pumping results

	in a depletion or “mining” of the groundwater in the basin.
Polymer:	A chemical formed by the union of many mono-mers (a molecule of low molecular weight). Polymers are used with other chemical coagulants to aid in binding small-suspended particles to larger chemical flocs for their removal from water.
Public Water System:	A system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, If such system has at least fifteen service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year. Such term includes: 1) any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of such system and used primarily in connection with such system, and 2) any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under such control which are used primarily in connection with such system. A public water system is either a “community water system” or a “non-community water system”
Recharge:	Process by which precipitation seeps into the ground-water system.
Reservoir:	Any natural or artificial holding area used to store; regulate, or control water.
Riparian Rights:	A doctrine of state water law under which a land owner is entitled to use the water on or bordering his property, including the right to prevent diversion or misuse of upstream waters. Riparian land is land that borders on surface water.
Safe Yield:	The annual quantity of water that can be taken from a source of supply over a period of years without depleting the source beyond its ability to be replenished naturally in “wet years”.
Sand Filters:	Devices that remove some suspended solids from sewage. Air and bacteria decompose additional wastes filtering through the sand so that cleaner water drains from the bed.
Sedimentation:	A water treatment process in which solid particles settle out of the water being treated in a large clarifier or sedimentation basin.
Surface Water:	All water naturally open to the atmosphere (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, impoundments, seas, estuaries, etc.) and all springs, wells or other collectors, which are directly influenced, by surface water.
Turbidity:	The cloudy appearance of water caused by the presence of suspended and colloidal matter. In the waterworks field, a turbidity measurement is used to indicate the clarity of water. Technically, turbidity is an optical property of the water based on the amount of light reflected by suspended particles. Turbidity cannot be directly equated to suspended solids because white particles reflect more light than dark-colored particles and many small particles will reflect more light than an equivalent large particle.
Watershed:	The land area that drains into a stream. An area of land that contributes runoff to one specific delivery point large watersheds may be composed of several smaller “subsheds”

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency